

The History of Boston Centers for Youth & Families

1970s

New school buildings were built in Boston and during the construction of the Lee, Holland and Marshall Schools, community residents were brought to the table along with local government to voice their ideas and discuss possible partnerships. At the time, the Community Schools movement was picking up momentum around the country. In Boston, residents felt strongly that new schools should not only be open 8 to 3 but also provide programming in the evenings. These new programs were aimed at after-school youth programs and preventing delinquency.

In 1972, a city ordinance was passed to establish Boston Community Schools and to keep schools open into the evenings.

In 1974, the non-profit Citywide Board of Boston Community Centers was established as the planning and fundraising arm of Boston Community Schools. Its charter outlined a new partnership between community residents and the City of Boston.

Over the next twenty years, 25 other non-profits would establish themselves and partner with neighborhood community centers to provide local planning and fundraising.

1980s

Boston Community Schools expands by taking responsibility for freestanding municipal buildings, formerly operated by the Parks Department, and changes its name to Boston Community Schools and Recreation Centers.

1990s

Boston Community Schools continues to expand by acquiring 4 new facilities from the Real Property Department.

2000s

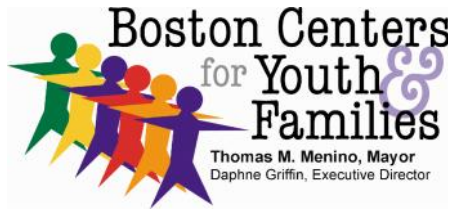
In 2001, Mayor Menino forms Boston Centers for Youth & Families by consolidating: Boston Community Centers, Office of Community Partnerships, 2:00-6:00 After-School Initiative and the Recreation Division. BCYF now includes 46 facilities.

In 2008, BCYF completes *Operation Excellence*, a comprehensive strategic planning process that engages teams of staff, board members, and community stakeholders in a process to set goals and outline actions and resources needed to improve BCYF's ability to deliver quality programs. Many operational challenges were identified through this process of self-reflection including a shortage of staffing at the site level, a lack of consistency in programming and a lack of established operating policies.

2010-2011

Building on lessons learned from Operation Excellence, and faced with challenging FY11 budget choices, BCYF makes the decision to consolidate 8 community center sites. BCYF successfully transitions program oversight to strong nonprofit partners to maintain program opportunities while strengthening programs at neighboring BCYF centers through the redeployment of BCYF staff.

In its FY12 proposed budget, BCYF seeks to continue to strengthen and increase programs through the consolidation of 3 additional sites and the repurposing of BCYF Madison Park Community Center as a *Recreation Hub* for the City of Boston.



BCYF Site Expansion Timeline

- 1972** Blackstone, Holland, Marshall, Lee (now Perkins), and Tynan sites opened
- 1973** Agassiz, Hennigan, Murphy (now Leahy-Holloran) sites opened
- 1974** Cleveland, Harborside, Johnson, Kent, Ohrenberger sites opened
- 1975** Condon and West Roxbury sites opened
- 1976** Jackson/Mann and Quincy sites opened
- 1977** Madison Park and Mattahunt sites opened
- 1978** Charlestown site opened
- 1979** English opened
- 1981** Orient Heights opened
- 1983** Shelburne opened
- 1984** Curtis Hall opened
- 1985** Curley, Golden Age, Hyde Park, Nazzaro, and Johnson sites opened
- 1986** Roslindale site opened
- 1987** Tobin, Clougherty Pool, Flaherty Pool, Mirabella Pool opened
- 1988** Paris Street/Paris Pool opened
- 1990** Gallivan opened
- 1991** Archdale opened
- 1992** Mason Pool opened
- 1995** Orchard Gardens and Roche opened
- 1997** Draper Pool opened
- 1998** Stillman opened
- 2001** Walsh opened
- 2002** Vine Street opened
- 2003** Mildred Avenue opened
- 2009** Grove Hall opened
- 2010** BCYF consolidates 8 sites to address fiscal and operational deficiencies (English, Johnson, Marshall, Mattahunt, Orchard Gardens, Stillman, Walsh, and West Roxbury)
- 2011** BCYF consolidates an additional two sites (Agassiz, Harborside and Kent) and re-purposes the Madison Park Community Center into the BCYF Recreation Center at Madison Park.